



the Regional Medical Center

FCC

445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C.  
20554

Thomas C. Dandridge  
President & CEO

June 24, 2011

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties began many years ago as a small private hospital and has since grown in to a large state-of-the-art medical facility owned by the two counties. The Counties of Orangeburg and Calhoun, South Carolina are located in a very rural part of the state, southeast of the state's capital city, Columbia. One of the challenges of being located in a rural area is that health care facilities may not be easily accessible and transportation may be extremely difficult for the sick and elderly. For those with chronic conditions, it can be a huge burden to travel to our facility frequently to receive treatment. There are, however, methods available that can help to ease this burden and close the distance between patients and doctors. Telehealth technology allows many patients to receive treatment remotely from their homes, or their doctors' or clinics' offices close to their homes, through broadband communications technologies. This reduces the patients' travel, while also freeing up time and space in medical facilities. Telehealth is an efficient and increasingly effective means of delivering health care to a great number of patients with many different conditions.

Another challenge in being a rural area is that communications technologies, such as mobile broadband, are often unreliable. For this reason we support the merger between AT&T and T-Mobile. This transaction will result in the build out of a 4G LTE mobile broadband network that will cover over 97 percent of Americans. Many of the additional people that will be covered after the merger are residents of rural areas. The Regional Medical Center of Orangeburg and Calhoun Counties believes that this will provide many more of our patients with reliable access to telehealth technology and we ask that the FCC please approve this merger.

Thank You,

Thomas C. Dandridge, FACHE  
President & CEO

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell